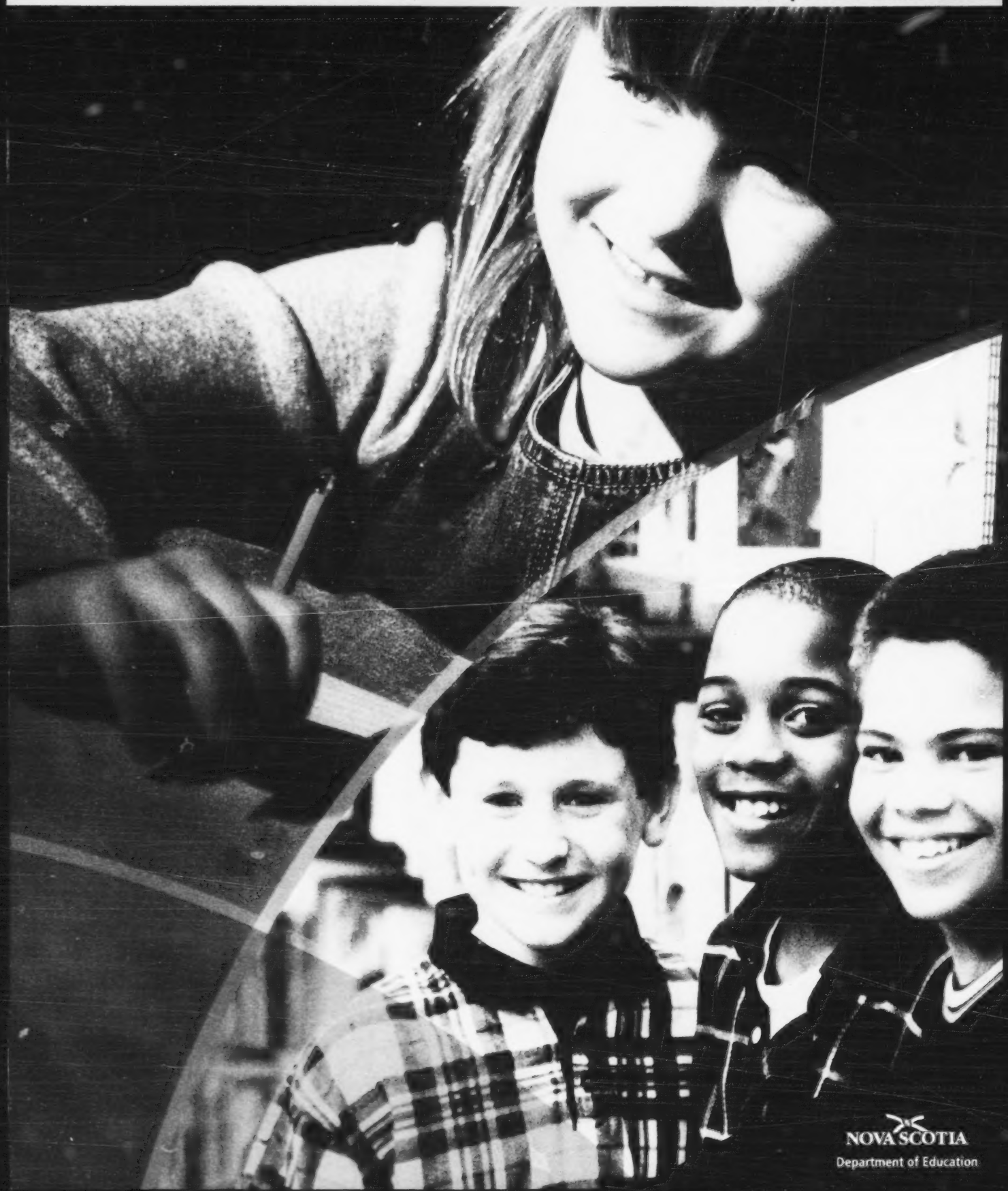
2003 Elementary Literacy Assessment • Schools Report

Tri-County District School Board



NOVA SCOTIA
Department of Education

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Background

The Elementary Literacy Assessment is part of the province's Learning for Life plan to ensure young Nova Scotians have the literacy skills they need to succeed in school and in life. It was administered for the first time from October 14 to 17, 2003. During the assessment, students read a variety of materials, including a short story, information texts, a poem, and a visual media text, and answered questions based on those readings. Students were also required to write a letter suggesting a solution to a problem and write a story in response to a prompt. The chart below shows student performance in terms of not meeting, meeting, or exceeding the expectations for reading and writing.

Helping All Students Succeed

The assessment allowed grade 6 students in Nova Scotia to demonstrate how well they have learned selected reading and writing outcomes of the elementary language arts curriculum. Its purpose is to provide information about individual students' reading and writing skills, so that students who are struggling can be given more support to help them catch up. The Department of Education plans to build on its program of monitoring and supporting student progress with another literacy assessment to be administered when these grade 6 students reach grade 9.

Working With Teachers

The assessment was developed by the department's Testing and Evaluation Division with the help of grade 6 teachers and was field-tested in schools across Nova Scotia. The performance levels required in order for students to meet expectations in reading and in writing were determined by teachers. The writing sections of the assessment were marked by a team of teachers under the direction of the Department of Education.

Sharing Responsibility

It should be remembered that while literacy skills are developed in the school, they are also developed in the home, in the community, and in other areas of life and are influenced by many factors. The results of the Elementary Literacy Assessment, therefore, should not be seen solely as a reflection of students' teachers or schools, nor should the results be used to rank or compare schools.

	Reading															Writing																
	Number of Students			Overall (%)			Males (%)			Females (%)			French Immersion (%)			Overall (%)			Males (%)			Females (%)			French Immersion (%)			Letter-writing (%)			Story-writing (%)		
	Overall	Males	Females	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding	Not Meeting	Meeting	Exceeding
Nova Scotia	10486	5232	5254	10	78	12	12	78	11	9	78	13	4	76	20	19	40	42	24	44	32	13	35	52	13	35	52	37	8	55	34	10	56
Tri-County District School Board	626	325	301	15	76	9	19	74	7	11	78	11	13	79	8	19	40	40	28	43	29	10	38	52	29	42	29	39	7	54	36	12	53
Arcadia Consolidated School	60	29	31	22	73	5	31	66	3	13	81	6				17	53	30	28	55	17	6	52	42				50	8	42	32	18	50
Barton Consolidated School	10	7	3	10	80	10	14	86			67	33				10	50	40	14	71	14			100				50	10	40	20	30	50
Cape Sable Island Elementary School	37	22	15	16	78	5	9	86	5	27	67	7				16	30	54	18	36	45	13	20	67				30	8	62	27	5	68
Carleton Consolidated School	23	11	12	4	78	17		82	18	8	75	17				9	39	52	9	64	27	8	17	75				30	13	57	22	17	61
Digby Elementary School	65	32	33	20	77	3	28	72		12	82	6	7	93		32	37	31	47	34	19	18	39	42	20	33	47	49	5	46	52	5	43
Digby Neck Consolidated School	8	3	5	38	63		100				100					25	63	13	67	33			80	20				50	13	38	63	13	25
Drumlin Heights Consolidated School	20	11	9		80	20		100			56	44				20	60	20	36	55	9		67	33				50	10	40	45	15	40
Evelyn Richardson Memorial Elementary School	36	18	18	11	75	14	17	72	11	6	78	17				19	28	53	33	28	39	6	28	67				36	3	61	25	8	67
Forest Ridge Academy	46	22	24	9	83	9	9	77	14	8	88	4				15	28	57	23	27	50	8	29	63				22	2	76	35	2	63
Havelock School	8	5	3	50	50		40	60		67	33					38	25	38	40	40	20	33		67				38		63	50	13	38
Hillcrest Academy	60	34	26	10	78	12	15	68	18	4	92	4				20	43	37	26	38	35	12	50	38				47	7	47	30	15	55
Islands Consolidated School	10	4	6		100			100			100						60	40		100			33	67				50		50		40	60
Lockeport Elementary School	24	7	17	8	83	8	14	86		6	82	12				8	29	63	14	43	43	6	24	71				21	17	63	8	8	83
Meadowfields Community School	75	38	37	7	81	12	8	84	8	5	78	16				16	32	52	21	37	42	11	27	62				31	4	65	33	7	60
Plymouth School	19	10	9	21	79		30	70		11	89					21	37	42	40	40	20		33	67				42	11	47	26	21	53
Port Maitland Consolidated School	30	18	12	17	73	10	22	72	6	8	75	17				10	37	53	11	44	44	8	25	67				27	7	67	23	23	53
South Centennial School	15	11	4	40	60		55	45			100					27	47	27	27	45	27	25	50	25				60	7	33	40	27	33
Weymouth Consolidated School	35	17	18	29	69	3	24	76		33	61	6	29	71		23	63	14	35	59	6	11	67	22	43	43	14	43	11	46	66	6	29
Yarmouth Central School	45	26	19	20	64	16	23	65	12	16	63	21	12	73	15	31	42	27	38	42	19	21	42	37	31	46	23	44	9	47	58	7	36

Note:

- Schools with six or fewer grade 6 students are not included in this report.
- 'Numbers of Students' does not include students from the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial, students with English Language Arts Individualized Program Plans, students who were exempted, or students from whom there was insufficient evidence.
- French immersion students wrote the assessment in English.
- 'Exceeds expectations' is a designation given to reading scores above 90% and writing scores that meet expectations in all elements of writing in both writing tasks. This designation does not appear on individual student reports.
- Percentages in each section may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Supporting Students

Providing individual and school-by-school results is part of the province's Learning for Life plan. The results give parents, teachers, school boards and the Department of Education information to support all students, especially those who are struggling with reading and/or writing.

Parents and guardians are getting their own children's results. Schools are contacting parents of students who did not meet expectations to discuss the results and ways to support these students. The support will continue in junior high and for as long as it is needed.

As well, each school has its own students' results, which will help teachers, principals, parents and guardians, and others with plans for improving their schools. All partners will have results each year to measure progress and the impact of decisions designed to improve students' literacy skills.

The department will continue to work with its partners to help all students in Nova Scotia learn and grow to their full potential.

For more information about the Elementary Literacy Assessment visit our website at <**plans.EDnet.ns.ca**>.